

## **CITY OF WENATCHEE ELECTORAL PROCESS COMMITTEE**

**August 24, 2015**

**Wenatchee City Hall Council Chambers  
129 South Chelan, Wenatchee, WA 98801**

### **MINUTES**

#### **I. Call to Order.**

Chair Jean Speidel called the first meeting of the Wenatchee Electoral Process Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. Committee members present were: Karen Rutherford, Mario Cantu, Susan Albert, Mark Urdahl, Oralia Banuelos, Joe Morrison, Carolyn Case. Absent: Rufus Woods, Alma Chacon, Gustavo Montoya. City staff present: Mayor Frank Kuntz, City Attorney Steve Smith, Executive Services Director Allison Williams, City Clerk Tammy Stanger, and Community & Economic Development Director Steve King.

#### **II. Introductions.**

Each committee member introduced themselves and spoke about their interest in serving on the committee.

#### **III. Mayor Frank Kuntz.**

Mayor Frank Kuntz welcomed the group and provided information as to how the current form of government (city council and strong mayor) came to be. He also addressed the roles and responsibilities of the committee in determining whether creating a districting system would be beneficial to the city, and the tasks assigned to the committee if they determine districting would be beneficial.

#### **IV. Training Re: Advisory Committees.**

The committee viewed a video produced by the Washington State Attorney General's for the required training of the Open Public Meetings Act.

#### **V. Committee Timeline.**

Chair Jean Speidel led a discussion of the work to be conducted and a timeline for the work. It was the consensus that the work would be complete in nine months, by May 2016. The first three months would be focused on whether to change to districts; if not, then the work would end. If yes, then the second three months would be focused on how to form the districts. The final three months would include work to create the boundaries, prepare a schedule to implement the change, and report recommendations to the City Council.

Initially the committee would like to meet twice monthly, with special meetings scheduled as needed.

**VI. Discuss Requested Background Materials.**

City Attorney Steve Smith introduced himself to the committee. Districting is an issue that he has been aware of, and the recent Yakima decision brought it to the forefront. Review of the Yakima decision is a good place for the committee to start. He can provide other documents from the case if needed. The committee asked questions of Mr. Smith. The committee would like to have him lead a discussion at the next meeting on the Yakima decision.

Information that the committee would like to view in the future includes a presentation of area census maps (demographics, voting participation by precinct, etc.), information on what is required to be a councilmember, and information from the Diversity Council's annual survey.

**VII. Next Steps.**

The committee discussed setting a regular meeting schedule. City Clerk Tammy Stanger will send out a doodle poll with dates that council chambers and most committee members are available.

The committee was provided with a copy of the Yakima decision (Final Injunction and Remedial Districting Plan dated February 17, 2015) and a copy of MRSC's publication titled "Council Election by Wards or Districts."

**VIII. Adjournment.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
CITY OF WENATCHEE  
Tammy Stanger, City Clerk